

## THINKS WELL OF WALKER'S IDEA

Mrs. Gilman Argues Women Should Wear Trousers, Says Mrs. Guilford.

### "BETTER THAN BALLOT"

Anti Thinkers They Would Be of Some Benefit Whereas Votes Could Not Aid Them.

By MRS. SINEON H. GUILFORD, Member Executive Board, Pennsylvania Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage.

One of the great metropolitan newspapers editorially remarked a few days ago that if women were granted the franchise worse things might happen than even their opponents have predicted. The more one studies feminism, the more menacing the movement is seen to be.

Begun by women who frankly stated that "woman's discontent increases in direct proportion to her development," that "ordinary motherhood" was not to be compared with a "career," that "the condition of married women under the laws of all countries has been practically that of slaves," this agitation has been nauseating normal women for half a century with its complaints. Comparing women with "idiots," "paupers," etc., and always complaining about her legal and social status being "inferior," the feminist propaganda has succeeded in infecting many women with an unrest that is as dangerous as any other form of hysteria.

Men are becoming bored by the con-

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stant reiteration of alleged wrongs that discontented women are inventing. Every week the publicity factory for feminism scours the whole country for isolated instances of "wrongs" to women. The United States is a big country, and it would seem that a capable data department should be able to gather such material without recourse to imagination; but it apparently finds it impossible. After some suffragist, for instance, discovers that Georgia has a lower "age of consent" law than California, she immediately allows her imagination to picture fearful possibilities of "wrongs" to women which would not exist if women had the vote. The fact that the wrongs do not exist doesn't matter to her. As a matter of fact, it is a great deal more unsafe to mistreat a woman in Georgia than it is in California—as the whole history of the Frank trial abundantly proves. But if the feminists can discover one legal or technical clause in "man-made law" that can be made to seem inferior, they immediately begin to harp upon it from Boston to Battle Creek.

The oddest recent instance of "unjust discrimination" against women took place in a suit—State-California—where a delegation of vote-seeking women complained that a committee of Congressmen whom they attempted to interview, "rushed by without even listening to their pleas." But the absence of "age of consent" in Georgia, and the "age-of-consent" bugaboo in Georgia, and the non-lifting episode in San Francisco are not the only examples of "injustice" to suffragists. The "age of consent" in South Carolina, the "age of consent" in Georgia, and the "age-of-consent" bugaboo in Georgia, and the non-lifting episode in San Francisco are not the only examples of "injustice" to suffragists.

### Better Argument for Trousers.

We always did think there was a better argument for "trousers for women" than for votes. At least, trousers can be alleged as of some benefit, despite their disadvantages. And, of course, the whole series of suffrage slogans could be revamped to serve with trousers. There would be "no argument" against them that would not "equally apply" to trousers for men. Women would be, in fact, more "free" in some respects; all women wouldn't have to wear them; it "would only take two minutes on the way to market" to get them, and, of course, "taxation without the right to wear trousers" might easily be called "tyranny." The only vital objection to "trousers for women" agitation is likely to meet is the opposition of other women—just as in the votes-for-women movement this is the most serious drawback.

But what a field for exploitation! Charlotte Perkins-Stetson-Gilman might "take over" the original creed of the suffrage movement in large cities, along with the "isolated household" skirt might be severely condemned as "one of the chief

instruments of women's ignorance and degradation," the women who wouldn't wear trousers could be called "unprogressive" and "behind the times."

### Discovers Gold Mine.

The "working woman" would need trousers beyond all others, for how could she be "economically independent" dressed in one of those "slave" styles that make it almost necessary for some women to be lifted to a street-car? "The Chinese, the Fiji Island women and the Eskimos wear trousers," why shouldn't we? might be asked in large type across half a page of the Sunday supplement. "Women wear divided skirts now in Western States and the Territory of Alaska, why are Pennsylvania women so quite indifferent to the clamor call of the 'newest' feminine 'freedom'?"

In fact, Mrs. Gilman has in reality discovered a gold mine of material for a new outbreak of feminist propaganda. And just think—there is "not a single argument against trousers for women," except that the majority of the women themselves are either absolutely opposed or quite indifferent to the clamor call of the "newest" feminine "freedom." And as long as women are "old-fashioned" enough to be proud of their sex, the majority will always be found on the side of inside-of-skirts. Of course, these women who won't endorse "trousers for women" will be called "does in the man's hands." It will be hurled at us from platforms that "the majority of men never asked" for trousers, and in a tone of deep accusation in her voice we may soon hear the soap-box orator demand: "Who gave men the right to wear trousers, anyhow?"

### PRETTY GIRL ON FIRING LINE

Nineteen-year-old Lass Clad in Brother's Uniform.

A pretty girl of St. Pol, near Arras, named Berthe Olibet, 19 years old, has just been discovered in French soldiers' uniforms in the region of the firing line. She had cut her hair short and otherwise disguised herself, and she had cried bitterly when the military authorities sent her back to her parents. She said that her brother had been killed at Cambrai, and she was determined to avenge his death. She had dressed herself in one of his old uniforms and had walked twenty miles intending to take her place in the firing line.

### "American Bar" Baffles Jagow.

In the search for new German words to replace foreign words in every day use, Herr von Jagow, the chief of police of Berlin, has come up against "American bar" and "American drinks." So far no one has suggested satisfactory substitutes.

## ALEXANDRIA NEWSPAPER BEGGED FOR WAR ITEMS

Editor "Covered" Conflict of 1797 by Sitting in Office and Watching for Ships Bound Up the Potomac—Got Foreign Papers and "Clipped."

By J. A. O'LEARY.

"Why do they print so much war news? Don't the editors think we ever grow tired of reading the same thing day after day?" These questions are heard on all sides from those who read the papers. To appreciate the news-collecting facilities of the present these persons should dig up the crude "news" papers of a century ago.

In the curio room of the Helmutler Art Gallery, 1307 Fourteenth street northwest, is a file of Alexandria, Va., papers dated 1797, and bearing scant reports of the battles between France and the combined forces of Russia and Italy. Although this paper was a "daily" it had to come out many a day without a paragraph about the war then raging in Europe.

How would the people of today like to pick up a great metropolitan daily and on an inside page find perhaps three paragraphs on the present war? They seldom received more than that in those days.

The editors then did not wield their pens to the tune of a telegraph instrument that ticked off page after page of news from the front. They had to sit in the office window with a pair of field glasses riveted on the river front. At sight of a ship they would rush to the dock and beg for a foreign paper, or the words of someone on board, like a starving man begs for food.

### Find Dead Babies in Trunk.

London has a mystery in the discovery of the mummified bodies of two babies in a building where many women employed by a large commercial firm live. The bodies were discovered in a trunk. They were buried in quicklime and enclosed in a wicker basket and seemed to have been there some time. Scotland Yard is working on the case.

announces that negotiations with the Emperor continue.

Recently the papers have carried columns on the attack on Warsaw. In the summer of 1917 an attack was made on this Russian city by the Prussians. The following account appeared in the Alexandria paper about two months later: "As Warsaw had no fortifications a siege in form was not necessary to the Prussians. But as that part of the capital which was exposed to them was covered by an entrenched camp of the army of Kosciuszko, it was necessary to attack it by storm. This attack was made on June 21 by a heavy cannonade, and in the course of the day several hundred bombs were thrown into the city. An incredible number of lives were lost. The issue of this attack caused much interest and concern in Prussia."

In another issue about the same time this brief account of the situation in Europe was printed: "August 22 (left) Europe July 12.—In consequence of the preliminaries of peace, the French army had evacuated several parts of Italy, to which the Austrians returned. But the inhabitants of several places, doubtless little flattered by the visit of the latter, took arms and fired upon the soldiers to prevent their entry. Their resistance, however, did not continue long."

A comparison of these clippings from the papers of a century ago with the war stories printed today may soften the hearts of the critics, who are suffering from "too much war news."

## SOUTH LISTENS TO SUFFRAGISTS

Miss Hill and Miss Perry Speak for Votes Before Large Street Crowds.

### 5,000 WILL SEEK BALLOT

That Many Active Workers Will Come to Washington in December for Action by Congress.

In the campaign of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage the conservative South is to be invaded with an army of street speakers. A few clever women already have been dispatched to Virginia and South Carolina to inquire into the conditions there with a view to going direct to the people with their plea for a Federal amendment.

The opposition to the Susan B. Anthony amendment to remove from the ballot the qualification of sex, said Miss Lucy Burns, vice president of the Congressional Union yesterday, "is found in the country districts, and among the people on the streets in Southern communities. The masses are with us, and the politicians will have to look within their own ranks for anti-woman suffrage support. Our field workers bring glowing accounts from Dixie, and the campaign under way there will be continued and extended."

Suffragists 5,000 strong are coming to Washington in December to demand action of Congress. The South will send up thousands of petitions and hundreds of persons for the big rally.

Miss Elsie Hill, daughter of Representative E. J. Hill, of Connecticut, just returned from Charleston, S. C. She was delighted with the reception given her by the people there. Her reports supported the assertions of organizers in the South that most of the opposition to the Federal amendment comes from politicians.

A few weeks ago Miss Hill ventured into Charleston, a reputed hot bed of opposition to all things Federal, and found the objections to the woman suffrage amendment vanished into thin air at the very first sound of a woman's voice heard in the streets of the city. On her first day in Charleston, Miss

Hill, with a soap box in her hand, walked down town to the heart of the business section, selected a popular corner, placed her box, mounted it, and proceeded to explain why suffragists are asking for a Federal amendment enfranchising women.

### Shattering Experience.

It was a shattering experience for the men of Charleston. Although they had never before participated in an open-air meeting conducted by a woman, they crowded around Miss Hill and listened with attention to her speech. As she was concluding her argument, a man withdrew precipitately from the crowd around her, to re-appear a few moments later with a foaming glass of seltzer lemonade, which he held ready for her as she stepped down from her improvised rostrum.

Neither on that day nor on any of her public appearances in Charleston, and they were many, did Miss Hill hear one objection to the proposed Constitutional amendment. There was no talk of the infringement of State's rights. These Southern men differentiate between infringement of a right and the direct application of that same "inalienable and sovereign right of the States" to pass upon all important questions, including the amending of the Constitution, which is as much the property of men from South Carolina as it is of those from Connecticut, Massachusetts, or New York.

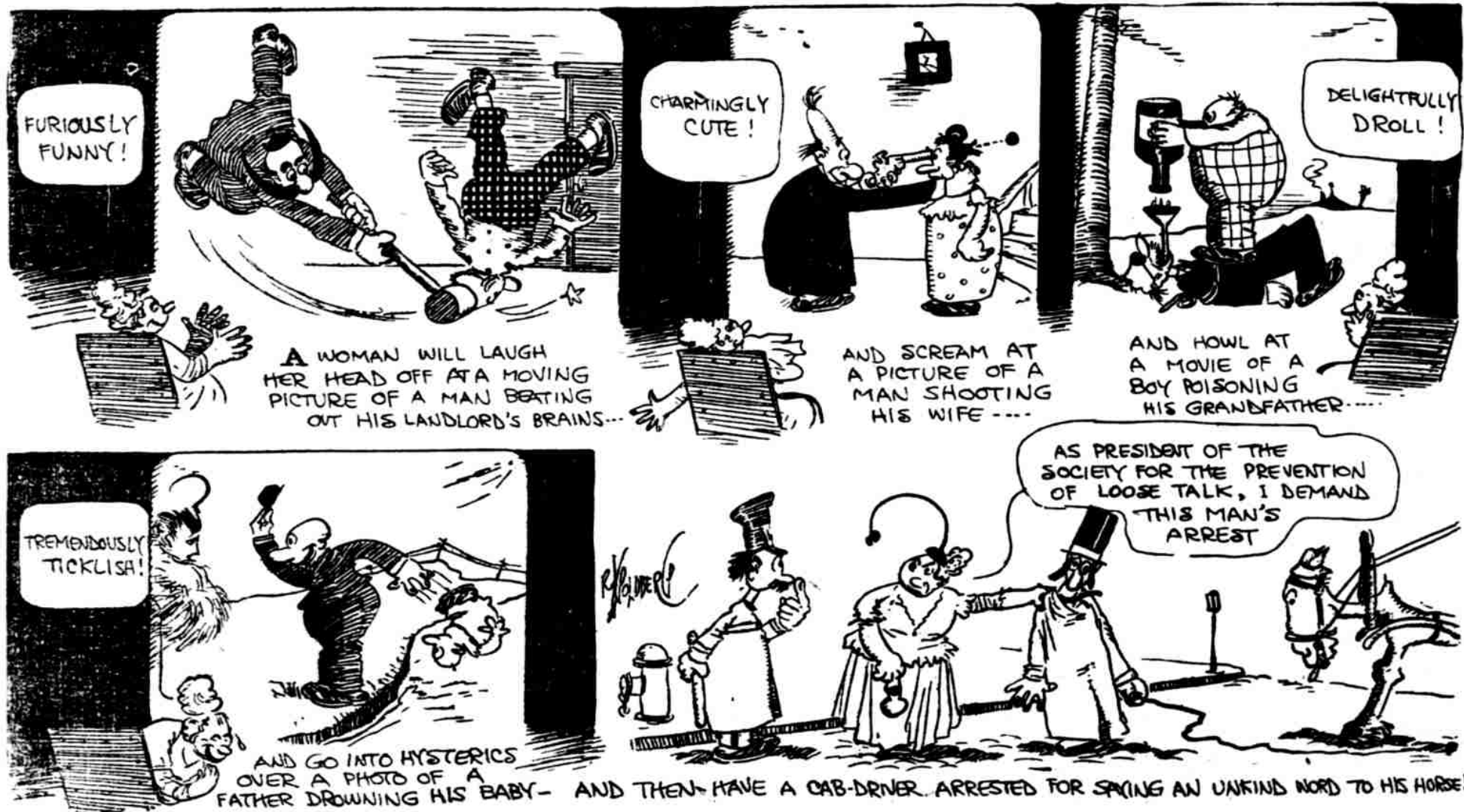
### Virginians Help Cause.

The same spirit of friendly consideration was found in Virginia by Miss Emily K. Perry, one of the Congressional Union organizers who has been assisting Mrs. Sophie G. Meredith, chairman of the Virginia branch of the union. "One night," said Miss Perry, "when I was speaking on the corner of Fifth and Broad streets, in Richmond, a young man who had offered on previous occasions to speak for us, came forward and addressed the crowd from the steps of our automobile. He made an excellent speech, at the conclusion of which he stated that while in college he and several of his classmates had pledged themselves upon graduating to form a league to help women attain the franchise. He added that one of the most practical ways of helping seemed to be to help save the women's voices from the strain of street speaking. He offered his services to speak whenever and wherever he might be needed."

"And this from a Virginia college man, among whom, we are told, are numbered the nonconvertible States rights advocates and some of the most ardent woman suffrage opponents. 'No word of opposition did we hear in Virginia.'"

## MAYBE IT'S THE LAW, OF COMPENSATION, WHATEVER THAT MAY BE.—By Goldberg.

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## FATHER WAS RIGHT.—By Goldberg.

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